

# ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS

VOL. LXXVII

DECEMBER, 1966

No. 10

## A New *Staphylus* from Costa Rica (Lepid.: HesperIIDae)<sup>1</sup>

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While attending the Seminar in Tropical Biology at the Universidad de Costa Rica during July and August, 1963, I had the opportunity to collect in various parts of the country. One of the most interesting areas visited was a patch of relatively undisturbed tropical wet forest located about ten miles west of Guapiles in the province of Limón. Many insects were taken there, but there were relatively few hesperiids, and most of these were common, widespread species. One specimen, however, represented an undescribed species and is very interesting from a distributional standpoint.

*Staphylus esmeraldus*, new species. Figs. 1, 2 (♂), 3 (♂ genitalia)

*Male*: Head and most of the distal two segments of the palpus brilliant iridescent green above; frons, upper surface of the proximal segment of the palpus and the tip of the third segment black. Cheek and palpus below dark gray. Antenna dark brown above, below with shaft ringed with brown and yellow and yellow alone inside flexion of club; nudum dull brown. Thorax and abdomen above thickly covered with blackish-brown hairs intermingled with a few golden ones; below, thorax and abdomen brown; legs brown.

<sup>1</sup> This research was supported in part by National Science Foundation Grant No. G-21977.

Upper surface of forewing dark brown sparsely overlaid with golden scales, shaded darker basad and with prominent black spot at the end of the cell. Two transverse dark bands are present, one lying just outside the cell and the other along the margin. The costal fold is well developed. Hindwing above also dark brown thinly overscaled with gold, darker basad, with a thin, dark extradiscal line and poorly defined dark submarginal spots. Under surface of forewing unmarked, rich dark brown, and that of the hindwing dark brown with basal gold overscaling and a few scales of the same color forming an ill-defined mesial spot-band. The fringes of both wings above and below dark brown. Length of forewing of holotype, 13 mm.



FIG. 1. *Staphylus esmeraldus*, new species. Holotype ♂, upper side.

FIG. 2. Same, under side.

The male genitalia are characteristic of the green-headed *Staphylus* with a massive, straight tegumen; a small, curved uncus; no scaphium and ornamented valvae. The well-developed dorsal median spine on the valva serves to separate the male genitalia of *esmeraldus* from those of *S. chlorocephala* (Latreille).

The *female* is unknown.

Described from a single specimen. *Holotype* ♂: COSTA RICA: 10 mi. W. of Guapiles, Prov. Limón, 520 m.; 10.viii.1963; perched on foliage with wings outstretched along forest trail, tropical wet forest (Lee D. Miller); ♂ genitalia slide no. M-1457 (Lee D. Miller).

The *Holotype* is deposited in the collection of Carnegie Museum (C. M. Ent. Type No. 512).

This species can be keyed only with difficulty to *chlorocephala* in Evans' (1953: 84) key to *Staphylus* since he mentions a tornal white area on the under surface of the hindwing which is totally absent in *esmeraldus*. The only other green-headed *Staphylus*, *chlora* Evans, is totally different, as may be seen in the diagnosis of the *chlorocephala* group which follows:



FIG. 3. *Staphylus esmeraldus*, new species. ♂ genitalia of holotype.

1. *chlorocephala*—Contrasting dark and pale bands above; no hyaline forewing spots; forewing costal fold well developed; under surface of hindwing with a tornal white shade; southern Brazil.

2. *esmeraldus*—Dark bands above less prominent; no hyaline forewing spots; forewing costal fold well developed; under surface of hindwing dark tornally with a few golden scales; Costa Rica.

3. *chlora*—Dark bands above less prominent; forewing with prominent hyaline apical and discal spots; no costal fold on

forewing; under surface of hindwing dark tornally; Bolivia and Brazil (Rio Tapajos, Para).

The holotype of *esmeraldus* is the first record for its group in Central America; in fact, this group has previously been recorded from no closer than central Brazil. This apparent gap in the distribution of the *chlorocephala* group may be real or not since these insects are rare wherever they are found, closely resemble some of the commoner *Staphylus* in flight and may have been overlooked by many collectors who were chiefly concerned with the gaudier, more conspicuous butterflies. In any event, members of this group of *Staphylus* should be sought wherever there are suitable tropical wet or rain forests throughout South America and at least southern Central America.

#### REFERENCE

- EVANS, W. H. 1953. A catalogue of the American HesperIIDae . . . in the British Museum (Natural History). Part III (Groups E, F, G) Pyrginae. Sect. 2. London, Trustees British Museum: v + 246 pp.; pls. 26-53.

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## Nomenclature Notice

Possible use of plenary powers by the Commission is announced in connection with the following names, listed by case number: 1742: Type species for **Cosmopteryx** Hübner, 1825 (Dipt.). 1745: Suppression of **Macrochoeta** Macquart, 1851 (Dipt.). 1748: Suppression of **Scoptes** Hübner, 1819 (Lep.). 1747: Emendation of STENOPODINAE Stal, 1859, to STENOPODAINAE (Hemip.). 1758: Type species for **Neolycaena** de Nicéville, 1890 (Lep.). 1760: Suppression of **Cellia errabunda** Swellengrebel, 1925 (Dipt.). 1762: Type species for **Enithares** Spinola, 1837 (Hemip.).

Send comments with case number to International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, c/o British Museum (N.H.), Cromwell Road, London, S.W. 7, England. (See Bull. zool. Nomencl. 23, pt. 4.)